

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00700 161644 Z

53

ACTION MBFR-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 GAC-01 IO-03

OIC-01 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /060 W
----- 074171

R 161545 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5782
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0700

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: SOVIET VIEWS ON JUNE MINISTERIAL AND COMMITTEE PHASE

FROM USDEL MPT

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

1. DURING BILATERAL MEETING MARCH 15 (SEPTTEL) SOVIET REP
MENDELEVICH GAVE VEST HIS THINKING ON NATURE OF CSCE
FIRST STAGE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH HE
CONTINUES TO ASSUME WILL BEGIN IN LATE JUNE.

2. MENDELEVICH SAID HE ANTICIPATED MINISTERIAL MEETING
WOULD LAST 7-10 DAYS AND CERTAINLY NO LONGER THAN TWO
WEEKS. ASIDE FROM APPROVING END PRODUCT OF MPT, HE
ENVISAGED THREE ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL ACTIVITY: THEY
WOULD PRESUMABLY EACH DELIVER PREPARED STATEMENTS, HOPE-
FULLY DRAFTED WITH DUE REGARD FOR ADVANTAGES OF BREVITY;
THEY WOULD INTRODUCE DRAFT PAPERS ON ONE OR MORE AGENDA
ITEMS; AND THEY WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO HOLD
BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH OTHER FONMINS.

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00700 161644 Z

3. MENDELEVICH DEFINED A " DRAFT PAPER" AS CONSTITUTING A DRAFT OF WHAT THE COUNTRY SUBMITTING IT BELIEVED SHOULD EMERGE FROM THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF CSCE ON A PARTICULAR AGENDA ITEM. THUS, SOVIETS WERE WORKING ON A DRAFT PAPER ON AGENDA ITEM ONE DEALING WITH QUESTIONS OF SECURITY AND PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS WHICH GROMYKO WOULD " CERTAINLY" TABLE AT JUNE MINISTERIAL. HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER SOVIETS WOULD ALSO SUBMIT PAPERS ON OTHER AGENDA ITEMS. HE ADDED THAT SOVIETS HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO MONTHS FOLLOWING THE MPT FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF THESE PAPERS PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF CSCE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS O WAS NOW A FORLORN HOPE.

4. IN WINDING UP THIS SUBJECT, MENDELEVICH EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MINISTERS WOULD NOT BE PRESENTED WITH ANY " SURPRISES" RUNNING COUNTER TO RESULTS OF MPT. VEST AGREED THAT GOVERNMENTS WERE UNLIKELY TO OVERTURN WORK OF THEIR MPT DELEGATIONS BUT NOTED THAT MPT MIGHT POSSIBLY NOT REACH FULL AGREEMENT ON ALL QUESTIONS. THUS, PROSPECT COULD NOT BE FORECLOSED THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES MIGHT CHOOSE TO CONTINUE TO PRESS THEIR OWN PET VIEWS AT THE MINISTERIAL

5. COMMENT: IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS, SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ALSO FORESEE MINISTERIAL LASTING 7-10 WORKING DAYS IN LATE JUNE- EARLY JULY. END COMMENT.

6. MENDELEVICH DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY WHEN INVITED TO COMMENT ON TIME- FRAME OVER WHICH LATER STAGES OF CSCE WILL TAKE PLACE. VEST OBSERVED THAT HUNGARIANS, CZECHS., AND MOST OTHER WARSAW PACT ALLIES HAVE VOLUNTEERED THEIR EXPECTATION THAT COMMITTEE- STAGE WILL BE ORGANIZED IN JULY ON HEELS OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, GET DOWN TO REAL WORK IN SEPTEMBER, AND PROBABLY FINISH BY END OF THE YEAR. MENDELEVICH MERELY SAID " LET LIFE TEACH US" PACE AT WHICH CSCE PHASE 2 WILL EVOLVE.
PETERSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HELSIN00700
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaibxs.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION MBFR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971217
Subject: CSCE: SOVIET VIEWS ON JUNE MINISTERIAL AND COMMITTEE PHASE FROM USDEL MPT VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR
TAGS: PFOR, n/a
To: MBFR
MOSCOW
NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

